

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2165

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL MUNICH

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 9758

E. O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, GE, UR

SUBJ: BRANDT'S VISIT TO THE USSR

1. SUMMARY. FRG EMBASSY GAVE USE READOUT JULY 10 ON BRANDT'S VISIT TO THE USSR. GERMANS SAID BRANDT'S TWO SESSIONS WITH BREZHNEV DEALT MOSTLY WITH EUROPEAN AND BILATERAL AFFAIRS. BREZHNEV GAVE SUPPORT TO "SYMBOLIC MEASURES" ON MBFR AFTER AND OF SALT TWO AND ASSURED BRANDT USSR WANTS TO SETTLE ALL ISSUES ON BERLIN. ON BILATERAL AFFAIRS, HOWEVER, HE BLAMED THE GERMANS FOR SLOW PACE IN DEVELOPING FRG-USSR RELATIONSHIP. GERMANS SAID THEY THOUGHT THE VISIT HAD BEEN "SATISFACTORY"

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AND THEY WERE IMPRESSED WITH THE "REVERENCE" SHOWN BRANDT.

PROTOCOL WAS HIGHEST LEVEL, ALTHOUGH THE VISIT WAS TREATED AS A PARTY-TO-PARTY AFFAIR. END SUMMARY.

2. GERMANS SAID BRANDT HAD TWO SUBSTANTIVE MEETINGS WITH BREZHNEV, ONE ON JULY 3 LASTING THREE AND ONE HALF HOURS AND ONE ON JULY 9 FOR AN HOUR. TALKS, ATTENDED ONLY BY BRANDT, BREZHNEV AND TWO INTERPRETERS, CENTERED MAINLY ON EUROPEAN AND FRG-USSR BILATERAL AFFAIRS. MAIN POINTS WERE FOLLOWING:

A. BREZHNEV SPOKE GENERALLY ON MBFR. HE SAID THE SOVIETS ARE NOW CONCENTRATING ON SALT TWO, BUT FOLLOWING SALT TWO SOVIETS BELIEVE THE MBFR PARTIES SHOULD WORK FOR "SYMBOLIC MEASURES" IN THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS.

B. ON BERLIN, BREZHNEV CLAIMED THE USSR IS INTERESTED IN SETTLING ALL ISSUES. HE SUGGESTED PROBLEMS MIGHT BE RESOLVED IN HELSINKI WHEN HE WOULD HAVE A CHANCE TO MEET WITH CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT. BREZHNEV SAID HE WANTED THE BERLIN PASSAGE OF HIS SPEECH FOR BRANDT TO BE SEEN AS AN "UPSWING." HE ASSURED BRANDT THAT ACCEPTABLE MODALITIES WOULD BE WORKED OUT REGARDING AN INVITATION TO BERLIN'S MAYOR SCHUETZ TO VISIT THE USSR.

C. BREZHNEV BLAMED THE GERMANS FOR THE SLOWNESS IN IMPROVING SOVIET-FRG RELATIONS. ALSO ON BILATERAL SIDE BRANDT AND BREZHNEV DISCUSSED GERMAN EMIGRATION (DETAILS SEPTEL). BREZHNEV ACCEPTED AN INVITATION TO VISIT THE FRG, BUT NO DATE WAS SET.

D. BREZHNEV ASKED BRANDT HIS VIEWS ON DEVELOPMENTS IN PORTUGAL. BRANDT RESPONDED THAT THE WESTERN POWERS ARE TRYING TO PACIFY AND NOT TO DISTURB THE SITUATION THERE. BREZHNEV REPORTEDLY MADE NO COMMENT ON THIS.

3. ACCORDING TO THE GERMANS, THE SOVIETS KEPT THE VISIT ON A PARTY-TO-PARTY LEVEL, BUT AT BREZHNEV'S PERSONAL DIRECTION ACCORDED BRANDT THE HIGHEST PROTOCOL HONORS THROUGHOUT THE STAY. INDICATIVE OF THE HONORS, WHICH THE GERMANS SAID APPEARED TO REFLECT A GENUINE DEMONSTRATION OF SOVIET "REVERENCE" FOR BRANDT, WAS HIGH LEVEL RECEPTION AND SENDOFF AT AIRPORT PRESIDED OVER BY BREZHNEV AND DEGREE OF BREZHNEV'S PERSONAL CONFIDENTIAL

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INVOLVEMENT IN THE VISIT. GERMANS ALSO NOTED THAT FRG EMBASSY'S RECEPTION FOR BRANDT HAD HIGHEST LEVEL OF SOVIET ATTENDANCE FOR SUCH AN EVENT IN EMBASSY'S MEMORY. (SOVIETS ATTENDING WERE LED BY GROMYKO, PONOMAREV, AND BUGAYEV AS WELL AS COTERIE OF BREZHNEV'S PERSONAL ADVISERS.)

4. VISIT ARRANGEMENTS WERE HANDLED INITIALLY BY FRG EMBASSY AND MFA, BUT SUDDENLY CPSU APPARATUS TOOK OVER SOVIET END OF

ARRANGEMENTS. FRG EMBOFF SAID THAT IN ADDITION TO THE USUAL GERMAN CONTACTS IN CPSU APPARATUS--PROFESSOR V. YEZHOV AND V.S. RYKOV, TWO HEADS OF SECTORS OF THE INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT OF THE CPSU SECRETARIAT--D.N. MOCHALIN AND N.N. PUKHLOV, OPENED DIRECT CONTACTS WITH FRG EMBOFFS. BOTH WERE SAID TO BE EXCELLENT SPEAKERS OF GERMAN AND WELL INFORMED ON FRG AFFAIRS. MOCHALIN WAS SAID BY THE FRG EMBOFF TO BE IN CHARGE OF GERMAN-SPEAKING COUNTRIES (FRG, AUSTRIA, AND SWITZERLAND). AT ONE POINT IN THIS VISIT, A SOVIET OFFICIAL SAID IN EXPLANATION OF THE PROTOCOL CURIOSITIES RESULTING FROM TAKEOVER BY CPSU "APPARATCHIKI" THAT "WE HAVE TWO GOVERNMENTS IN THE SOVIET UNION."

5. GERMANS SAID THE ONLY SOUR NOTES IN THE OTHERWISE POSITIVE VISIT CONCERNED THE DISTORTION OF BRANDT'S SPEECH IN SOVIET MEDIA AND AN UNSUCCESSFUL SOVIET EFFORT TO GREEZE FRG AMBASSADOR SAHM OUT OF THE VISIT. GERMANS ALSO COMMENTED, HOWEVER, THAT THEY FOUND BREZHNEV'S SPEECH FOR BRANDT "COOLER" THAN SPEECH HE GAVE DURING CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT'S VISIT LAST FALL.

6. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING ANY FURTHER INFORMATION EMBASSY BONN MAY DEVELOP ON BRANDT VISIT.
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